Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

forwarding a prefix value to a node in a packet switched environment to create a security association with the node based on the prefix value, said prefix value referring to a portion of a first internet protocol address,

wherein the security association is valid for a plurality of different internet protocol addresses, each of said plurality of internet protocol addresses comprising said portion of the first internet protocol address to which the prefix value refers.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the packet switched environment is a internet protocol multimedia subsystem of a 3rd generation network.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method is carried out at user equipment.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the message is a protocol message.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the protocol is a session initiation protocol.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the message is a session initiation protocol register message.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the prefix value is included in a header of the message.

9.-11. (Canceled)

12.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the prefix value is allocated by a gateway general packet radio service support node.

13.-25. (Canceled)

26.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

       at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code, the at least one memory and the

computer program code configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at

least to perform:

forwarding a transmitter configured to forward a prefix value to a node in a packet switched environment to create a security association with the node based on the prefix value, said prefix value referring to a portion of a first internet protocol address,

wherein the security association is valid for a plurality of different internet protocol addresses, each of said plurality of internet protocol addresses comprising said portion of the first internet protocol address to which the prefix value refers.

27.   (Canceled)

28.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the forwarding of the prefix value to the node comprises forwarding the prefix value in a message.

29.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

forwarding means for forwarding a prefix value to a node in a packet switched environment to create a security association with the node based on the prefix value, said prefix value referring to a portion of a first internet protocol address,

wherein the security association is valid for a plurality of different internet protocol addresses, each of said plurality of internet protocol addresses comprising said portion of the first internet protocol address to which the prefix value refers.

30.   (Canceled)

31.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

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at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code, the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to perform:

receiving ~~a receiver configured to receive~~ a prefix value from a node in a packet switched environment, said prefix value referring to a portion of a first internet protocol address; and

creating ~~a creation unit configured to create~~ a security association between the node and the apparatus based on the prefix value,

wherein the security association is valid for a plurality of different internet protocol addresses, each of said plurality of internet protocol addresses comprising said portion of the first internet protocol address to which the prefix value refers.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a prefix value from a node in a packet switched environment, said prefix value referring to a portion of a first internet protocol address; and

creation means for creating a security association between the node and the apparatus based on the prefix value,

wherein the security association is valid for a plurality of different internet protocol addresses, each of said plurality of internet protocol addresses comprising said portion of the first internet protocol address to which the prefix value refers.

33.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first internet protocol address and another of the plurality of internet protocol addresses, are internet protocol addresses of the same apparatus.

34.   (Canceled)

35.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the first internet protocol address and another of the plurality of internet protocol addresses are internet protocol addresses of the same apparatus.

36.   (Canceled)

37.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the first internet protocol address and another of the plurality of internet protocol addresses are internet protocol addresses of the same node.

38.   (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving a prefix value from a node in a packet switched environment, said prefix value referring to a portion of a first internet protocol address; and

creating a security association with the node based on the prefix value;

wherein the security association is valid for a plurality of different internet protocol addresses, each of said plurality of internet protocol addresses comprising said portion of the first internet protocol address to which the prefix value refers.

39.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the first internet protocol address and another of the plurality of internet protocol addresses are internet protocol addresses of the same node.

40.   (Canceled)

41.   (Canceled)

42.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the packet switched environment is a internet protocol multimedia subsystem of a 3rd generation network

43.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, comprising user equipment.

44.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the transmitter is configured to forward the prefix value in a message.

45.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein the message is a protocol message

46.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 45, wherein the protocol a session initiation protocol.

47.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein the message is a session initiation protocol register message.

48.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein the prefix value is included in a header of the message.

49.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 48, wherein the header is a security client header.

50.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein the prefix value is included in an extension parameter of the security client header.

51.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the prefix value is allocated by a gateway general packet radio service support node.

52.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the packet switched environment is a internet protocol multimedia subsystem of a 3rd generation network

53.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, comprising proxy call state control function entity.

54.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein the receiver is configured to receive the prefix value in a message.

55.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 54, wherein the message is a session initiation protocol register message.

56.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 54, wherein the prefix value is included in a header of the message.

57.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein the header is a security client header.